

**Beyond the Bench XIV 2002
Riding the Waves of Change**

*Wednesday
December 4, 2002*

- 8:00 a.m.** **Symposium Registration**
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.** **Continental Breakfast & Welcome**
- 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.** **Special Symposia** (lunch included; additional fee required)

A. Family Violence Issues

This symposium is open to all interested attendees and will fulfill the annual domestic violence training update requirements of California Rules of Court, rule 1257.7 for court appointed mediators and evaluators and will partially fulfill the 12-hour instruction requirements of rule 1257.2 and rule 1257.7.

B. “The Real Beyond the Bench” – Roundtable Discussions on Court/Agency Relations

Following up last year’s stimulating discussion on court-agency relations in child welfare cases, this is an in-depth session primarily for judicial officers and child welfare staff. This symposium will include a presentation on the results of a study of court and child welfare agency relations recently completed by the Bay Area Social Services Consortium at UC Berkeley.

C. Language and Competency Issues in Questioning Children

In the eyes of the law, children have traditionally been suspect as a source of competent information. But a study of the questions they are asked, and the cognitive tasks they are expected to perform, demonstrates such suspicion to be ill-founded. In this all-day workshop, we will use discussion, observation, and hands-on practice to explore the language and competency issues that have led to such suspicion, and learn ways to disarm it. Taught by one of the most popular speakers from last year’s conference, forensic linguist Anne Graffam Walker.

D. Basic Dependency Law for Attorneys

This session is especially appropriate for new practitioners in dependency cases and will partially fulfill the initial training requirements of California Rules of Court, rule 1438 (note: check with your local court to determine specific requirements for your jurisdiction). In addition to an overview of dependency law and procedure, session topics will include child development and substance abuse addiction and treatment.

- 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.** **A Night at the Movies** (Additional fee required)
 Dinner, Film, Panel Discussion
Instead of a formal dinner, tonight we will have a very special presentation of the feature length documentary film, “If I Could,” narrated by Sally Field followed by a panel discussion. If I Could tells the story of multigenerational abuse in one family. For more information, please go to www.ificouldmovie.com. This powerful film will lead to a vigorous discussion and promises to be a highlight of the conference.

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- 8:00 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome**
- 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Plenary Session**
The Child Development Context of Child Welfare Policy
Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., The ChildTrauma Academy, Houston, Texas
Dr. Perry, one of the world's most distinguished experts on children's brain development and the effects of trauma on the brain, will outline some of the most important child development considerations for those developing policies and practices affecting families and children.
- 11:00 – 12:00 noon Plenary Session**
Child Welfare Reform in California – the CDSS Stakeholders and Federal and State Reviews
Thomas Morton, M.S.W., President and CEO, the Child Welfare Institute, Atlanta, Georgia
Thomas Morton is a consultant to state child welfare systems all over the country, including California. Mr. Morton brings his national perspective to a description of our state's current three-year effort to redesign child welfare services and the impact of federal reviews of California's child and family services.
- 12:00 – 1:40 p.m. Lunch/Plenary Session**
Foster Youth Policy/Foster Youth Rights
Hon. Dion Aroner, Assemblywoman, California State Assembly
Karen Grace-Kaho, California Foster Care Ombudsman
Jennifer Rodriguez, Policy Director, California Youth Connection
In recent years current and former foster youth in California have been heavily involved in shaping legislation and policy. Thursday's lunch speakers offer three unique perspectives on foster care policy and developing and implementing the foster youth bill of rights.
- 1:40 – 3:10 p.m. Workshops I**
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Workshops II**
- 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. County Team Meetings I (optional)**
- 6:15 p.m. Children's Attorneys Discussion**
Dependency Court Legal Services (Los Angeles), Sacramento Child Advocates, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the San Diego Public Defender's Office invite attorneys from organizations that represent dependency children to a happy hour discussion of current topics of mutual concern, including policies and procedures relating to conflicts of interest, different organizational structures, models for handling specialized advocacy on behalf of children beyond dependency proceedings, caseloads, staffing, and ways to achieve improved statewide coordination. See information at registration regarding location of this meeting.

Thursday Evening: On your own in Old Pasadena

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8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Team Meetings II (optional)/Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Workshop Session III

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. Workshops Session IV

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Closing Lunch/Plenary Session

A History of Child Protection in America

John E.B. Myers, Professor, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Professor Myers, a well known speaker throughout the country on child abuse issues, closes the conference with a multimedia presentation on the subject of his latest research: the history of American efforts to protect children.